

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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STATE FOR ARA/P

ASSUME SECSTATE WILL EXPECT AND BE PREPARED FOR GENERAL PRESS QUESTIONS ON MIDEAST, SOUTHEAST ASIA, ENERGY CRISIS AND OTHER GLOBAL QUESTIONS. THEREFORE, FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE MORE FOCUSED ON BILATERAL AND HEMISPHERIC TOPICS:

1. THE UNITED STATES CLEARLY MAKES MAJOR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER NON-WESTERN NATIONS, WHILE IT DISCRIMINATES AGAINST ITS FRIENDLY TRADING PARTNERS WITH COUNTERVAILING DUTIES AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS. WHY DOESN'T THE UNITED STATES ADOPT A POLICY OF HELPING ITS FRIENDS FIRST?

2. WHY IS THE UNITED STATES DISCRIMINATING AGAINST BRAZILIAN FOOTWEAR AND HANDBAG EXPORTS THROUGH THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY--WHEN IT IS NOT TAKING SIMILAR ACTION AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES?

3. ON THE TRADE ACT, WE KNOW THAT THE UNITED STATES SAYS NO OTHER COUNTRY OTHER THAN OPEC MEMBERS PRESENTLY WOULD BE SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS UNDER THE GSP PROVISIONS. BUT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FACT REMAINS THAT THE PRESIDENT IS GIVEN DISCRETIONARY

POWERS UNDER THE "IMPORT RELIEF" CLAUSE TO APPLY RESTRICTIONS UNDER A VARIETY OF CONDITIONS. THE GOB MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE HAS SAID THAT IF YOU MAKE A CANNON, YOU INTEND TO FIRE IT. CAN YOU GUARANTEE THAT THE U.S. WILL NOT FIRE ITS RESTRICTIVE-CLAUSES CANNON AT BRAZIL AND OTHER COUNTRIES WHEN THEY ENTER INTO ASSOCIATIONS TO IMPROVE THE PRICES OF THE RAW MATERIALS ON THE WORLD MARKETS?

4. IN HIS MESSAGE TO CONGRESS RECENTLY, PRESIDENT GEISEL SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES' POSSIBLE "MULTIPLICATION OF RESTRICTIVE (TRADE) MEASURES" WOULD WEAKEN U.S.-BRAZIL RELATIONS. DO YOU AGREE AND, IF SO, WHAT DOES THE USG INTEND TO DO ABOUT IT?

5. DOES THE U.S. SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE CREATION OF SELA, THE NEW LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC GROUPING?

6. THE U.S. DOES NOT SEEM TO BE INTERESTED IN LATIN AMERICA EXCEPT AS A RAW-MATERIALS SUPPLIER. IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT, HOW DOES THE UNITED STATES REALLY VIEW LATIN AMERICA--IN TERMS OF POLICY PRIORITIES?

7. WHAT DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE BRAZIL'S CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE FORTHCOMING PETROLEUM PRODUCERS' AND CONSUMERS' CONFERENCE?

8. DOES THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT THE CONCLUSION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT?

9. IS IT A FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA WILL BE LIFTED AT THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING IN MAY?

10. DO YOU THINK BRAZIL WILL GO ALONG WITH THE U.S. VIEW-POINT ON CHANGING THE RULES TO ALLOW FOR A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE ON LIFTING OAS SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA?

11. WHICH CANDIDATE DOES THE U.S. SUPPORT FOR NEW OAS SECRETARY GENERAL?

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12. IS THERE ANY HOPE FOR REVIVING THE "NEW DIALOGUE"? WILL THERE BE A "DIALOGUE-TYPE" MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MAY? IF NOT, WHEN?

13. WE SEE THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS IS INTERESTED IN EXTENDING THE AMERICAN TERRITORIAL SEA TO 200 MILES, JUST AS BRAZIL HAS DONE. WHAT IS THE CURRENT U.S. POSITION ON THE LOS?

14. IN YOUR MARCH 1 HOUSTON SPEECH, YOU OUTLINED THE PANAMA CANAL AND THE CUBA ISSUE AS THE MAJOR POLITICAL PROBLEMS THE U.S. FACES IN THE AMERICAS. ARE THERE NO OTHER MAJOR ISSUES? WHAT ABOUT THE DELICATE SITUATION IN PERU, AND THE HUMAN-RIGHTS ISSUE IN CHILE?

15. A BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SAID LESS THAN TEN YEARS AGO THAT WHAT WAS GOOD FOR THE U.S. WAS GOOD FOR BRAZIL. YET A CLASSIC PRINCIPLE OF CURRENT BRAZILIAN FOREIGN POLICY IS "NO AUTOMATIC ALIGNMENTS." IS THE USG CONCERNED ABOUT THIS CHANGE?
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